

Used shipping containers are the refuse of modern, internationalised, consumerist societies. About 50% are designed for a single use. The cost of logistics for their re-use being prohibitive, they simply pile up at major shipping nodal points and are left to rust. The problem increases as we consume more and populations grow.

Upcycling used containers is an extremely 'green' and environmentally responsible alternative. Structurally sound, constructed of full penetration welded steel tubes, they are frequently triple code-required strengths. A home made from shipping containers provides sturdy, inexpensive square meterage. Each unit is delivered onsite for about \$2000.

The proposal has been designed in such a way that natural lighting and ventilation have been maximised, and also a maximum instance of public circulation and green space areas. These areas allow for interaction among residents and evoke a strong sense of community within the development. The design massing is a strongly expressed form that is a result of a containers unique lego-like beauty.

All dwellings are pre-fabricated and fitted out to the clients material selections, including an external paint and graphic design scheme. All individual dwellings are raised and separated from one another in order to encourage natural air circulation and minimal noise transfer. The dwellings can be constructed as recognisable containers or not, with optional spray stucco covering steel inexpensively.

Insulating value is provided through rigid panels mounted to interior faces and high-tech ceramic heat reflective paint, with a living green roof for the majority of dwellings to reduce heat gain.

Designed for long term durability and minimal maintenance, containers are an ideal, affordable building material. Through the implementation of various design and construction techniques it is possible to design a shipping container dwelling of acceptable standards and for minimal cost, allowing an entry point to the property market for students and young professionals.